



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



## Division for Inclusive Social Development webinar

# Is there a 'new consensus' on inequality?

*Speaker:*

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**2 – 3 pm EST**

Thirty years after the “Washington Consensus”, is there a new policy consensus that addresses the problem of inequality? There is widespread acceptance that multiple, interrelated, and mutually reinforcing inequalities exist and that these inequalities are generally “too high”. These inequalities matter, both intrinsically and because of their instrumental effects on economic efficiency and political institutions. There is less consensus on what the actual levels of income inequality are.

In policy terms, there is something approaching a consensus regarding the desirability of various “pre-distribution” policies, ranging from early childhood development to investment in better teaching, as well as in the need for sharper antitrust regulation, freer labor unions, and more progressive taxation. But much less is known about how to provide the poor with genuine opportunities to break the cycle of intergenerational transmission of disadvantage in a durable way.

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